

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted in response to the Restriction Requirement issued in patent application number 10/215,249, filed August 9, 2002. This Preliminary Amendment elects Group II for prosecution, in accordance with that Restriction Requirement. It is respectfully requested that this Preliminary Amendment be favorably examined and entered in the above-referenced application.

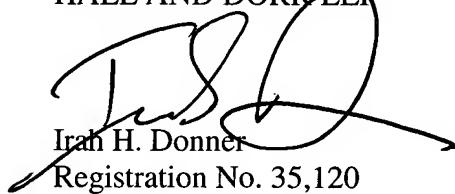
AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required for this Amendment, or credit any overpayment to deposit account no. 08-0219.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to deposit account no. 08-0219.

Respectfully submitted,

HALE AND DORR LLP



Irvin H. Donner  
Registration No. 35,120

1455 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20004-1008  
(202) 942-8400 IHD/Irm  
Date: February 13, 2004